

Arlene M. Raftery, 75



Arlene M. Raftery, age 75, of Bluffton, SC and formerly of Duxbury, died Wednesday, March 29, 2017 at her home surrounded by her children.

Mrs. Raftery was born on Feb. 6, 1942 in Quincy, MA, the daughter of the late James Smithson and Mary Wickham Smithson. She was a 1962 graduate of Quincy City Hospital School of Nursing and earned her certification as a pediatric nurse practitioner from Northeastern University. She worked for 40 years in private practice. She enjoyed volunteering at local schools and immunization/vaccination clinics and serving her community as a neighborhood representative. In addition to work and civic involvement, she enjoyed cooking and traveling, especially cruising.

Mrs. Raftery was preceded in death by her loving husband of 53 years, Joseph P. Raftery. She is survived by her sons, Lt. Col. Brian W. Raftery, U.S. Army (Ret.) (Mary Therese) and Michael A. Raftery (Michelangelo Apodaca); daughter, Laura E. Raftery (David Blake); grandchildren, 1st Lt. Matthew Raftery, U.S. Army (Elizabeth), Spc. Sean Raftery, U.S. Army, Kiera Blake, and Erin Blake; brothers, James L. Smithson (Lois) and Arthur J. Smithson (Denise); and sister, Marilyn A. Borrelli (Steve), as well as nine nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at noon on Monday, April 10, 2017 at Sauls Funeral Home, 90 Simmonsville Rd., Bluffton, SC 29910.

A joint memorial service for Arlene and her recently deceased husband Joseph is being planned for May 13 in Duxbury.

In lieu of flowers, remembrances may be made to Hospice Care of the Lowcountry, P.O. Box 3827, Bluffton, SC 29910 or Bluffton Self Help, Donations Department, P.O. Box 2420, Bluffton, SC 29910.